

## Town of Los Altos Hills

### PRIVATE STREET - WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

In the October 1995 Town Newsletter, an article appeared that listed the streets the Town currently classifies as private. If your street was one of the streets listed and you are interested in the Town accepting it as a public street, certain steps must be followed and are outlined below:

- **Talk to your neighbors**

It is important that all of the residents on a street talk to each other to determine if the majority of the affected residents want the street to remain private or want to have the Town accept it as a public street. If it is desired that the street be accepted by the Town as a public street, the street will be required to meet the Town's standards.

- **Retaining private road status**

If your neighborhood decides to keep the road private, an agreement among neighbors should be made to decide how the road will be maintained. Ideas to consider include how repair work will be paid for and divided among neighbors, and how it will be determined when repairs are necessary. New houses, major construction and annual meetings should also be discussed. The Town does not need to be informed of these meetings since the Town's Engineering Department does not need to be present .

- **Changing a private road to a public road**

If your neighborhood decides it would like its street to be public, certain requirements must first be met. If it is determined that work is necessary to upgrade the road to the Town's standards, a plan prepared by a registered civil engineer is required which shows the existing conditions of the road and right of way and all necessary proposed upgrades. The Town has prepared an additional guidance document which can be given to your hired professional which defines the Town's standards. Ask the receptionist at Town Hall for the *Town Standards for Public Roads* handout. The costs for any necessary improvements and fees are to be paid by the residents who own the private road in a manner that is determined by the residents involved.

- Acceptance as a public road

If your private street currently meets the Town's standards for public roads, or if all of the necessary work has been done to upgrade the road to the Town's standards, and the City Engineer has approved the road, the Town will then accept the private road as a public road. Following the acceptance, the road then becomes a part of the Town's system of public roadways and will consequently be maintained by the Town.

If you have any questions concerning this handout, or are ready to set up a meeting with the Town after meeting with your neighbors, please contact Jim Rasp, the Public Works Manager, or Sheryl Proft, the Assistant Engineer, at Town Hall at 941-7222.